

CLAIMS

5 What is claimed is:

AD
1/9/05 *method*
1. A ~~system~~ for coding compound frames of data to be sent over a transmission channel, comprising:

accepting a frame of data at an input of a data coder;

10 dividing the frame of data into one or more data blocks;

classifying the one or more data blocks as either picture blocks or non-picture blocks according to a set of criteria;

15 selecting either a picture block or a non-picture block as a next block to be coded;

comparing the selected block to a block in a frame previous to the accepted frame;

20 if the selected block is within a threshold difference of the block in the previous frame, generating a signal to use the block in the frame previous to the accepted frame, otherwise,

if the selected block is a non-picture block, compressing the selected block using a first compression method, and dividing the selected block into at least two non-picture layers; and

25 if the selected block is a picture block, compressing the selected block using a second compression method, and dividing the selected block into at least two picture layers.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting one of the group consisting of the signal to use the block in the frame previous to the accepted frame, the at least two non-picture layers, and the at least two picture layers as data to be transmitted over the transmission channel, and transmitting the selected data over the transmission channel.